

# Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women

## THE MESSENGER

### Special points of interest:

- Refugee Families program
- Human Trafficking
- Convention & Cruise

**WEB PAGE:**  
[www.archatl.com](http://www.archatl.com)

**Under Catholic Life**



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### Joan Brown, President



### 2009 is here already! I do hope that everyone had and blessed Christmas and will have a peaceful 2009.

Planning for the many changes and events that will take place this year is already in progress. The most complex one is creating another district. We now have three deaneries and we are increasing that to four and changing the name of deanery to district. So until September 12 (our 53rd annual convention), everything will remain as is. At the end of our convention on September 13, new leadership, new districts, and new commission chairs will all become a reality.

We need everyone to come to all the Deanery meetings and “get in on the action”. At the first Deanery meetings, we will be electing a nominating committee to find members that will serve as officers for the Districts. Then at the April and May meetings, you will have a choice and privilege to elect officers for your new District. After you have elected your new officers, they will then get started on selecting new Commission Chairs. We need your support and prayers for a successful year. I don’t know of any prayer that we can pray every day that is better than our own *Our Lady of Good Counsel* prayer. So I ask that you include it in your daily prayers for the success of our organization.

A.A.C.C.W. is the only women’s organization in our Archdiocese that has every Catholic Woman in the Archdiocese as a member and has Archbishop Gregory’s complete support. We feel that it is so important in this troubled time to have an organization of so many women to stand together. We all need to be very aware of all the things our government is dealing with this year...especially the “FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT” (FOCA). I urge everyone to write to your Congressmen and Representatives on how you feel about this very bad piece of legislation. Norma Matthews has more about it on page 4. Please keep the members of your parish informed about this.

Also, please keep your parish members informed about our upcoming Convention to be held on September 11-13. We would appreciate it if you would go ahead and make your reservations (info on page 5) as soon as possible. Our Convention Planning Chair, Shirley Radican has already negotiated and blocked some rooms. We need to fill these rooms to be able to reserve more. The more rooms we fill, the better negotiating power Shirley has with the meeting rooms and food. We are planning on great speakers and workshops and at the Saturday morning meeting, you will have a chance to vote on new AACCW officers. So you do not want to miss that.

If you have any questions about our organization and what is going on, please fill free to call me at 770-948-4849 or email me at [jrbrown@comcast.net](mailto:jrbrown@comcast.net)

## NORTHEAST DEANERY

### Colette St Cyr, President

Dear Sisters in Christ,

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!** It's going to be an exciting year with the new districts, election of new officers and all our other events.



I would like to congratulate all the women and youth of the year. The Northeast Deanery is in charge of all workers and refreshment this year. If your parish as not volunteered yet, we need you! It's not too late to volunteer, please call:

For food, call the Chair:

Karen Williams phone # 770-788-7606

For kitchen and hall helpers, call Chair:

Norma Matthews phone # 770-979-7186

For hostesses at the doors, ushers and handing out programs, call Chair: Roseanne Perniciaro phone #770-889-4625

I am looking forward to see you'll there. God bless.

**Colette St-cyr**, Northeast Deanery President

## Better Infant Birth

### Deirdre Holler, Chair

I would like to thank all the parishes who were so generous with the baby layette items which you brought to the Annual Convention of the Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women in September.

To date we were able to supply two clinics with 75 beautiful layettes and continue to do so when needed.

Thank you once again for helping AACCW and Better Infant Birth continue this program.

God Bless

Deirdre Holler/ (BIB)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 28– Recognition Mass for Woman & Youth of Year at the Cathedral of Christ the King**

**February 7—NE Deanery Meeting**

**February 21—Northwest Deanery meeting**

**March 7—AACCW Board Meeting**

**September 11-13—53rd Annual Convention**

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

### Molly Gamblin, Chair



New Year's resolution number one...if you don't already have a savings plan, here's some help getting one started. With the cost of groceries increasing much faster than inflation, now is definitely the time to think about saving as much as possible, yet still live comfortably. People everywhere are feeling the financial pressures of today's economy, and for most, the thought of saving money is a distant one. When times are tough, saving money can be difficult. Even if you're living paycheck to paycheck, there are ways you can save if you follow a few simple rules.

Saving money is a marathon, not a sprint. If you want to save up \$1,000, it is much easier to accomplish that goal in a year compared to two months. In order to put your savings plan to work, the key is to start small. Can you find a way to save \$5 each week? Think about it--five dollars a week is less than a lot of fast food value meals or even a few fancy coffees. Five dollars could be shaved off of each weekly grocery bill by buying a few things on sale or buying store brands. When you start with a small amount, you can find ways to save, and it adds up over time.

So, saving five dollars a week doesn't sound like much, but that's okay. If you saved just the five dollars a week for a year, you'd have \$260, less any interest. If you're married and your spouse does the same, you will have amassed over \$500 painlessly. But the idea isn't to start small and stay small. You may start at five dollars a week, but once a few weeks or a month goes by and you're used to saving that money, bump it up to \$7 or even \$10 each week. If you could live without five extra dollars, you could probably find you can get by without seven dollars just as easily.

These small incremental weekly increases will gradually change your spending habits so that you become accustomed to how much money you have available, and before you know it, you're stashing away a nice amount of money.

You've heard it before, but to make saving work, you need to pay yourself first. If you wait until all the bills are paid, groceries bought, and money otherwise spent before seeing what is left over at the end of the week, you'll always come up empty. The key to saving is to treat your savings as a bill. You find a way to pay the phone bill each month, don't you? Well, think of your weekly or monthly savings as a bill that has to be paid, and pay it before it gets spent on frivolous things.

To make sure you pay yourself first, you need to create an automatic savings plan. This is best accomplished by setting up direct deposit with your paychecks so that a little bit goes into savings on the day you get paid. That way, on payday you don't have to worry about making a deposit yourself, and you have already put that savings out of sight and out of mind.

If you don't have direct deposit set up, you can always create an automatic transfer between accounts with your bank. You can schedule a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly automatic transfer that moves money from your checking to savings. If you don't have to think about it, it's much more likely to get done.

### SOUTH DEANERY PRESIDENT - Maureen Harty

With a new year, people on earth mark off an ending and note the beginning of a new block of time - our attempt to order and organize our place and space in the Universe by counting days, weeks, months, mornings and nights. A new year brings hope, freshness, and usually change in our world.

As we begin this year of 2009, no one on earth knows what will befall us, or grace us. Many things will be different by the last page of the calendar – new babies will be born into our world, loved ones and characters in our world new space will die, tragedies will occur, natural disasters in some now-unknown parts of the world, and joyous and hopeful occasions will be recorded in our families and communities all over the globe.

All of these changes to the way our world looks right this minute will require our absorption first, our acceptance later on. As we begin a new year of meetings and activities in our AACCW, we know we are facing some extremely impactful changes. First we must absorb this change, work through the required details, and then will undoubtedly come the necessary acceptance.

Realigning our present Deanery configuration of three groups into our new District alignment of four will require our patience, our prayer, our participation, and our peace with it. In our United States, we are facing a year of change with a new Administration, new Congress, and new ideas. Yet, despite our differences in political strategies, we are one country - united in our belief in democracy.

Throughout the world, Catholics worship, celebrate and carry on devotions with many cultural, traditional and linguistic differences. Yet we are all one in our Faith – we are all one Church!

Here in our fast-growing Archdiocese, and in AACCW, we face a time to realize this “up-close and personal.” With any organizational structure (e.g. three Deaneries) the purpose is simply to divide and form manageable groups so that effective communication may occur. All of us belong to this one Archdiocese, led by Archbishop Gregory and our parish priests, and no matter how we dice, slice or combine our parish memberships into sub-groups (to be called Districts after September) we are still all one – women of the Archdiocese of Atlanta working in unity! (That said, can you imagine quarterly meetings the size of our annual Conventions?)

We are just undertaking the challenge of re-alignment. We will need to elect new officers-more than before-and find new Commission chairs-more than before. But with the new Districting, we have unique opportunities to make friends with women we may now see only once a year; and we will learn lessons about welcoming into comfortable groups those who seem “strangers.” We will perhaps miss seeing some of our friends, but will grow in our relationships with more! Our personal and parish goals will not change; only the larger groups with whom we share these on a quarterly basis will be somewhat different. It is our 2009 challenge to work through this process, embrace it for what it means, and grow through the experience of adapting and changing in service to our Lord and to the Archdiocese.

God bless you with all you need to be your best in 2009!



### CORRECTIONS FOR ROSTER

Page 18—Corpus Christi in St. Mountain new pastor is: Rev. Leonard Brown, CMF

Church of the Good Shepherd new pastor is: Rev. Francis X Richardson

Page 24—eliminate Lorraine LaPort as Pres of St. Oliver Plunkett and replace with:

Linda Bischof, 1935 Skyland Glen Drive, Snellville, GA 30078-3863, 770-979-6858

Page 27—Cathedral of Christ the King new pastor is: Rev. Francis G. McNamee and New contact

Is Keri Allen c/o of the Cathedral , email is kallen@ctking.com

Page 29—Our Lady of the Mountains,Jasper new pastor is: Rev. Charles A. Byrd

St. Anthony, Blue Ridge new contact person is: Nancy Bailey c/o Church

Page 31—St. Peter Chanel new pastor is: Rev Peter J. Fau

Page 33—New street address fro Katie Glowka is: 106 Delaney Pine Drive, 1401

**Organization Commission Chair, Gwendolyn Scott**

Happy New Year! I hope that all of you had a holiday season full of blessings and peace. This is going to be a very busy year for us in that we are reorganizing into Districts instead of Deaneries. Much work lies ahead of us to get this organization into a stable position to make that change in September. Many have made comments regarding their desire for the organization to remain as it is; but those fears can best be analyzed in a quotation from Albert Einstein: *“Most people see what is, and never see what can be.”* Hopefully, with the division of the three deaneries into four districts, there is potential for more participation from inactive churches because the clusters will be in smaller both in size and geographical area.

We will be looking at new officers for the Districts because the structure will have changed. There will be new By-Laws and a new atmosphere where new groups of people will be meeting for the first time. If we move forward in a positive way, then we can create a positive outcome. Although these changes seem so “massive”, keep in mind that there are people working to make this a smooth transition and your better understanding of the process will be a valuable asset.

As Organizational chairperson, I have a very positive feeling that this change will make our AACCW even better than it is. If you do not have a copy of the breakdown for the districts, contact a board member, your deanery president, or me to become more knowledgeable about the change.

I leave you with a quote from Robert Browning, the poet: *“Our aspirations are our possibilities”*.

Yours in Faith  
Gwendolyn Scott



**Legislation Commission, Norma Matthews**

I'm writing to let you know about a terrible piece of legislation called **"FREEDOM of CHOICE ACT" (FOCA )**

FOCA would establish the right to abortion as a fundamental right (like the right to free speech) and wipe away every restriction on abortion nationwide.

It will eradicate state and federal abortion laws that the majority of Americans support and prevent states from enacting similar protective measures in the future.

Please read the expert analysis by Americans United for Life (AUL) and sign the Fight FOCA petition at: <http://www.FightFOCA.com>

There will be a postcard campaign later in January and I will keep you informed as soon as we hear from Archbishop Gregory.

The 36th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in America is JANUARY 22. A DAY of PRAYER and PENANCE for LIFE

- 9:30 A.M. ROSARY for LIFE--- SHRINE of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
- 10:00A.M. MASS for the UNBORN**
- 11:15 A.M. free for lunch**
- 12:00P.M. TOGETHER for LIFE MEMORIAL--- STATE CAPITOL STEPS**
- 1:00P.M. SILENT MEMORIAL WALK -----Begins and ends at CAPITOL STEPS**

**THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

- A VOICE FOR AMERICAN CATHOLIC WOMEN TODAY
- TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH PRAYER AND ACTION
- UNITES MORE THAN 5,000 AFFILIATED CATHOLIC WOMEN'S GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES
- SUPPORTS SOCIAL ACTION THROUGH GOSPEL VALUES
- TRAINS CATHOLIC WOMEN TO BECOME LEADERS AT THE INTERSECTION OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY
- PROVIDES A FORUM FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN TO SPEAK AND ACT ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

**PUBLICITY CHAIR, MARY WELLS**

Happy New Year to all, before I write another word, let me thank you for your support during the past year. To all Board members and affiliates: I hope you enjoyed the holiday, sharing your Thanksgiving or Christmas with family and friends. Please remember to share your holiday events with us by sending articles, fliers and pictures letting us know what is going on in your parish and the community. All information is due three weeks before the up coming events to the Georgia Bulletin.

I wish you and your family a healthy, happy, joyful, peaceful, and a bless New Year. .

Please send your information to me at the following address:

Mary Wells  
63 Holly Road, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30314-2150



## CHURCH COMMISSION, Mary Hargaden, Chair.

I wish you all a very blessed 2009.

One of the responsibilities of the church Commission Chair is to help plan the liturgies and or prayer services for the various events that the Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (AACCW) has during the year.

Women and Youth of the Year Recognition celebration, scheduled for Saturday, February 28, is one of these special occasions. The event will be held at the Cathedral of Christ the King. This year the Northeast Deanery is the host so I am working with their Church Commission Chair, Deirdre Holler to find lectors, altar servers and musicians to make this a special occasion for the honorees and their families. We are in this process now and know with the help of our Archbishop and the priests of the Archdiocese it will be a day to remember.

In reading a recent issue of the Georgia Bulletin I found a nice article on John Henry Cardinal Newman. He was born in England in 1801 and became an Episcopal priest in 1825. He became disenchanted with the Church and in 1845 was received into the Roman Catholic Church. He had a very deep devotion to Jesus and wrote the follow prayer, which is an expression of his total dependence on the Lord.

*“Teach me Lord to be sweet and gentle in the events of life, in disappointments, in the thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those I trusted, in the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied. Let put myself aside, to think of the happiness others, to hide by little pains and heartaches, so that I may be the only one to suffer from them.*

*Teach to profit by the suffering that comes across my path; let me use it that it may mellow me, not harden and embitter me, that it may make me patient, not irritable, that it may make me broad in my forgiveness, not narrow, haughty or overbearing.*

*May no one be less good for having come within my influence; no one less pure, less kind, less noble for having been a fellow travel in our journey toward eternal life.*

*As I go my rounds from one distraction to another, let me whisper, from time to time, a word of love to you. May my life be lived in the supernatural, full of power for good, and strong in its purpose of sanctity.*

*Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere. Flood my soul with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so completely that my life may be only a radiance of yours. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see me no longer, but only Jesus.”*



## AACCW 53rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

**WHEN; SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2009**

**WHERE: WYNDHAM PEACHTREE**

**CONFERENCE CENTER**

**2443 Hwy 54 West**

**Peachtree City, GA 30269**

**Room reservations can be made at any time by calling (770) 487-2000 (ask for AACCW Conv. Rates). Call now and fill our blocked rooms so we can reserve more.**

**Single or Double Occupancy is \$95.00 per night They also now have PURE rooms available at a cost of \$115 per night. A PURE room is an allergen-resistant room.**

**Inform all the women in your parish and encourage them to come to this convention. There will be something for everyone.**



**The National Council of Catholic Women's  
2009 "FUN"RAISER CRUISE----**  
**Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Join Us!!  
NOVEMBER 14- 21 2009**

**7 FUN-filled days**

**aboard the Carnival Liberty**

*with Council Women, their family and friends from all over the U.S.*

Balcony Cabin	\$895.00 per person/double occ.
Ocean View Cabin	\$745.00 per person/double occ.
Inside Cabin	\$645.00 per person/double occ.

Our Eastern Caribbean Cruise leaves from the **PORT OF MIAMI** and stops at

**Half Moon Cay** (private island in the Bahamas)  
**St Thomas, San Juan and Grand Turk.**

**Call Paula today at Going Places Travel at (866-458-0308) to make reservations or for more information. Be sure to mention the National Council of Catholic Women.**

**Executive Vice President , Shirley Towle**

My Sisters in Christ,

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” Mahatma Gandhi. **This is the year of doing it differently! Beginning this New Year I realize an attitude adjustment is needed. As they say, “When life hands you lemons . . .”**

The truth is that we are about to shake up our lives in the AACCW. It is time to think about what we need to accomplish, so that we can move forward in the Atlanta Archdiocese. I think the exercise of examining our organization, and its goals, periodically is very valuable. With the holidays behind us it is time to move with a new mindset, working together we can make these changes work, and work well!

Although it seems that we are all busier than ever, the next few Deanery meetings will be very important, as it will set up our new District structure starting in 2009 – 2010.

Looking back, for the AACCW, 2008 was an amazing year. As an organization, we in the AACCW can be justifiably proud, because our successes could not have happened without the time and talent of

faithful women like you. The list is extensive: our Have a Party, in Milledgeville; the Legislation Day; the Recognition Mass for the Women and the Teens of our Parishes; our support of Villa International; our support of Better Infant Birth; the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cancer Home in Atlanta; the financial help of our Seminarians; the Pro Life and the Abuse Centers throughout our state; Continuing Leadership Conferences, the Eucharistic Congress; activities with the Province of Atlanta; the conventions for both the South Carolina and the Savannah Diocese; the NCCW; and our own AACCW Convention. When I carefully reflect on all that we have accomplished this year, through our working together, I simply see the goodness of God; I see His deep and passionate love for us, as His people.

CCW; Women’s Guild; Circles (by any other name . . .); we are all working for the improvement of the Archdiocese of Atlanta Council of Catholic Women. So now is the time to work out the inherent problems of change, and surrender completely to what God wants us to be doing, the vision of His ministry.

Heavenly Father, we pray that the AACCW organization will come together as one body. We realize that we cannot bring others together, if we ourselves are divided; and we cannot teach others well, what we do not practice ourselves. Give us the courage Lord, to face our challenges as individuals and build in the trust and respect of one another as a group, so that we may grow in your grace and service. We ask for these, and for all things, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

God Bless!  
Shirley Towle  
Executive Vice President, AACCW



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**By Joan Lucas**

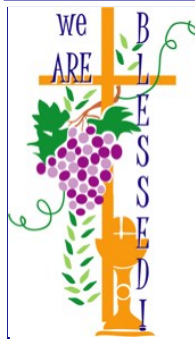
The Anti-trafficking reauthorization bill was passed as one of the last pieces of legislation of the year, and was signed into law by President Bush. A link to the bill summary in detail can be obtained at [www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-7311](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-7311)

This bill provides many new protections for unaccompanied alien children, exploited guest workers, especially those of diplomats and US citizen victims, as well as streamlining and improving a number of the criminal statutes to make sure that the pimps and abusive employers cannot enslave with impunity.

The bill was named for English abolitionist William Wilberforce, who led the parliamentary movement against the British slave trade in the early 19th Century. This bill authorizes appropriations through the 2011 fiscal year. We hope our new President will continue to end this abominable practice.

One way we, as Catholic Women, can help eradicate this modern day form of slavery throughout the world is by becoming aware of what human trafficking is and helping to raise public awareness about this abominable practice happening not only in our country, but throughout the world.

**RECOGNITION DAY**



Our annual Recognition day will be held on February 28 at The Cathedral of Christ The King. Mass will begin at 10 am followed by a reception.

We congratulate and look forward to seeing all our Women honorees and our Senior Youth honorees. It is a great honor to be chosen as the Woman of The Year and the Youth of The Year.

For those parishes that have not chosen an honoree yet, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. We must have all the information prior to February 14 to give us time to prepare the certificates, name tags and other information

## Arriving Refugee Families

**“My fellow parishioners would like to help refugees rebuild their lives in America, but we don’t know where to begin.”**

 [A Refugee Story](#)

 [Who Is A Refugee?](#)

Catholic Charities will resettle 170 refugees in the Atlanta area in 2008 and more in 2009. We offer hope to some of the world’s most desperate people. Refugees arrive in Atlanta after losing their homes, countries, livelihoods, families, friends, and even their health. After facing so many challenges, they need help rebuilding their lives. This Seminar will give you the tools you need to offer that help. Our call to action asks you to organize a group to assist refugee families arriving in 2009.

When: Saturday, February 7, 2009 9:30am – 2:00pm (light lunch will be served)

Where: Senior Connections, 5238 Peachtree Rd NE, Chamblee, GA 30341

(West of Chamblee Marta Station, North of Chamblee Tucker Rd)

Presentations: -issues facing refugee families  
 -the first 30 days in Atlanta  
 -cultural challenges  
 -committee structure  
 -financial support

More Information: For more information, please contact: Margaret Prickett, Manager Volunteer Resources (404) 885-7271 or [mprickett@archatl.com](mailto:mprickett@archatl.com)

## FAMILY CONCERNS COMMISSION

Dana Lee Willis, Chair

How do you write an inspirational piece when you are uninspired, aka: battle weary?

With my son having a stroke at thirty four and out of work for six months, my granddaughter with a rare kidney disease, my daughter with possibility of cervical cancer, mother in law with inoperable aneurysm, mom having a mystery pain in neck, and my own suppressed immune system, life has been interesting and exhausting!

I didn't have time for my seasonal depression, Ha, much less time for me. When you are too busy to take time for self and especially time with God, in walks “Grace”. Thank God for His abundant, unasked for, and undeserved grace. The Grace to turn everything over to Him when we are weary and in need. We can finally surrender and resist despair, fear, and unbelief!

Thank God He puts people in my path that open my eyes and ears. Fellow sisters in Christ who just say what we need to hear. Is this all just a mere coincidence? I think not! God loves me unconditionally and just as I am. He wants what's best for me and my love ones, I just need to get out of his way. I don't have to do anything, He has already paid the price.

Yes our son is getting better after surgery, our daughter will be better after minor surgery and the prayers and gratitude continue. This New Year is a new day and a new beginning because the story didn't end on the cross!

I am grateful for His gifts of family, friends and you sisters in Christ. It is great being a part of AACCW with women in common belief and vision. Hope to see you and hug you at our upcoming meeting on February 21 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Dallas. We look forward to a new year in His labor of love.

Paulette Healy  
 Northwest Deanery President

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are safe”. (Proverbs 18:10)

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**WE ARE NOW ON THE INTERNET!!!**

**PLEASE GO TO THE ARCHDIOCESAN WEB SITE—  
www.archatl.com AND CLICK ON CATHOLIC LIFE  
and you will find AACCW, click it on and read all about  
us.**

## Catholic Day at the Capitol Information & Registration

**March 12, 2009**

**Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Georgia State Capitol**

Third Annual Catholic Day at the Capitol. Faith in Action with The Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland, Bishop of Savannah and The Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta and Diocese of Savannah invite Georgia Catholics to the State Capitol in Atlanta to exercise our baptismal call as advocates for public policy that protects those who are vulnerable and promotes the common good.

Join us for a legislative briefing at 8:30 a.m. at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, view the opening of the session, meet your legislators and have lunch on your own. An optional tour of the Capitol is scheduled at 2:00 p.m.

The event is free, but registration is required so that we can communicate last minute changes. For additional information, please contact Veronica Diaz at 404-978-2766.

### A. A. C. C. W. GOALS

**A.A.C.C.W.GOALS:** To give the Catholic women of our Archdiocese a common voice and to be an instrument for united action in matters affecting our Catholic principles. To insure proper recognition and representation of Catholic principles when addressing committees and problems of local, National and International importance. To stimulate the work of existing Catholic Women's Groups to service and usefulness in meeting the needs of the time.